

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, HELD IN THE CITY HALL COMMISSION CHAMBERS, 100 NORTH U.S. #1, FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, AT 6:30 P.M. ON MONDAY, **JULY 06, 2020.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hudson called the July 06, 2020 Regular Meeting of the City Commission to order at 6:30 PM.

2. OPENING PRAYER - Pastor Wayne Hewlett, Fort Pierce Macedonia SDA Church

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Linda Hudson; Commissioner Rufus Alexander; Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson; Commissioner Thomas Perona; Commissioner Reginald Sessions

Staff Present: City Clerk Linda Cox
City Manager Nicholas Mimms
City Attorney Peter Sweeney

Commissioner Alexander was present via telephone conference call.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Approval of Minutes from June 15, 2020 Regular Meeting.

Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas Perona, seconded by Commissioner Reginald Sessions to approve the minutes from the June 15, 2020 Regular Meeting.

AYE: Mayor Linda Hudson, Commissioner Rufus Alexander, Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, Commissioner Thomas Perona, Commissioner Reginald Sessions

Passed

6. PROCLAMATIONS

- a. Treasure Coast Waterway Cleanup Week Proclamation being received by Robert Mac Keen & Justin Beard.

7. LETTERS TO COMMISSION

- a. Email from Diane Shaw thanking the City of Fort Pierce for providing the opportunity for free antibody tests for COVID-19 at Ilous Ellis Park.
- b. Letter from Cathie Mouring, Executive Director, GraceWay Village thanking the City of Fort Pierce for the generous gift and ongoing support through a supportive partnership.

8. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS NOT REQUIRING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Any person who wishes to comment on an agenda item which is not under Public Hearings on the Agenda may be heard at this time and must sign up to speak in advance. Please limit your comments to three (3) minutes or less, as directed by the Mayor, as this section of the Agenda is limited to thirty minutes. The City Commission will not be able to take any official actions under Comments from the Public. Speakers will address the Mayor, Commissioners, and the Public with respect. Inappropriate language will not be tolerated.

Octavious Robinson, Items 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e
Barbara Copeland, Items 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e
Luck Rossknecat, Item 11f
Steve Tarr, Item 13a – Submitted in writing and read by City Clerk into the record.

9. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas Perona, seconded by Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson to approve and set the Agenda.

AYE: Mayor Linda Hudson, Commissioner Rufus Alexander, Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, Commissioner Thomas Perona, Commissioner Reginald Sessions

Passed

10. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

11. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of request to reduce lot clearing fees in the amount of \$3,510.66 against 302 N 14th St. (301 N 13th St.), Fort Pierce, FL, Parcel ID Number 2409-507-0016-000-2 owned by Liberty Truth & Deliverance Tabernacle of God, Inc., 105 N 15th St., Fort Pierce, FL 34950. In accordance with previously established policy, staff recommends the approval to waive the costs for interest, penalties, and fees leaving a balance due of \$718.85 payable in 60 days. However, applicant is requesting a waiver of all charges including the hard costs totaling \$3,510.66, which requires a direct vote by the Commission.
- b. Approval of request to reduce lot clearing fees in the amount of \$1,968.24 against 302 N 14th St. (301 N 13th St.), Fort Pierce, FL, Parcel ID Number 2409-507-0016-000-2 owned by Liberty Truth & Deliverance Tabernacle of God, Inc., 105 N 15th St., Fort Pierce, FL 34950. In accordance with previously established policy, staff recommends the approval to waive the costs for interest, penalties, and fees leaving a balance due of \$745.65 payable in 6 months. However, applicant is requesting a waiver of all charges including the lot clearing costs totaling \$1,968.24, which requires a direct vote by the Commission.
- c. Approval of request to reduce lot clearing fees in the amount of \$13,060.24 against 301 N 13th St., Fort Pierce, FL, Parcel ID Number 2409-507-0016-000-2 owned by Liberty Truth & Deliverance Tabernacle of God, Inc., 105 N 15th St., Fort Pierce, FL 34950. In accordance with previously established policy, staff recommends the approval to waive the costs for interest, penalties, and fees leaving a balance due of \$2,900.98 payable in 12 months. However, applicant is requesting a waiver of all charges including the lot clearing costs totaling \$13,060.24, which requires a direct vote by the Commission.
- d. Approval of request to reduce demolition fees in the amount of \$17,087.28 against 302 N 14th St. (301 N 13th St.), Fort Pierce, FL, Parcel ID Number 2409-507-0016-000-2 owned by Liberty Truth & Deliverance Tabernacle of God, Inc., 105 N 15th St., Fort Pierce, FL 34950. In accordance with previously established policy, staff recommends the approval to waive the costs for interest, penalties, and fees leaving a balance due of \$7,094.80 payable in 24 months. However, applicant is requesting a waiver of all charges including the hard costs totaling \$17,087.28, which requires a direct vote by the Commission.
- e. Approval of request to reduce demolition fees in the amount of \$27,964.75 against 301 N 13th St., Fort Pierce, FL, Parcel ID Number 2409-507-0016-000-2 owned by Liberty Truth & Deliverance Tabernacle of God, Inc., 105 N 15th St., Fort Pierce, FL 34950. In accordance with previously established policy, staff recommends the approval to waive the costs for interest, penalties, and fees leaving a balance due of \$12,958.95 payable in 36 months. However, applicant is requesting a waiver of all charges including the hard costs totaling \$27,964.75, which requires a direct vote by the Commission.
- f. Approve request to reduce code enforcement lien in the amount of \$15,790.00 against 529 N 11th Street, Ft. Pierce, FL 34950 - Parcel ID Number 2409-501-0118-0009 previously owned by Donnie A. Parker, 529 N 11th Street, Ft. Pierce, FL 34950 and currently owned by Qamar U. Wahaj, 233 SW Whitmore Drive, Port St. Lucie, FL 34984 to \$1,850.00 payable in 60 days.
- g. Approval of Communitywide Council Recommendations for the program year 2019-2020 Public Service Grant Awards to 15 entities in the total amount of \$49,090.00.
- h. Approval of letter to the Department of Economic Opportunity from the City of Fort Pierce supporting the Florida General Planning Support Grant for the St. Lucie Regional Resiliency Plan.

Commissioner Perona has pulled Items 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, and 11e for discussion.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rufus Alexander, seconded by Commissioner Reginald Sessions to approve Items 11f, 11g, and 11h.

AYE: Mayor Linda Hudson, Commissioner Rufus Alexander, Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson,
Commissioner Thomas Perona, Commissioner Reginald Sessions

Passed

Regarding items 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, and 11e, Commissioner Perona inquired about the liens for which a reduction is sought.

Code Compliance Manager, Peggy Arriaz explained that the church had obtained the adjacent lots without knowing that there were existing liens for demolition and lot clearing. The total amount of all liens is a little over \$88,000.00. Staff has recommended waiving \$63,600.00 which represents interest, penalties, and administration charges. The remaining approximate balance of \$24,400.00 is the actual hard costs expended. Staff and the property owner have worked out a re-payment plan to be phased in over three (3) years.

Commissioner Sessions would like to see the hard costs reduced further to assist with the owner's plan to develop a Cultural Center. Commissioner Johnson mentioned that the City of Fort Pierce can offer better assistance when the actual development begins through the CRA. Commissioner Sessions would like the City Commission to consider offering assistance on the front end through the reduction of the hard costs. He feels that this proposed development of a Cultural Center would be a great benefit to our community. Mayor Hudson agrees that this church is a remarkable asset to Fort Pierce and would like to offer whatever assistance if feasible; however, the City of Fort Pierce always holds the line on hard costs. Mayor Hudson would favor a longer time frame to work this out.

Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas Perona, seconded by Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson to approve Items 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d and 11e with a re-payment term to be over thirty-six months in the amount of \$24,419.23.

AYE: Mayor Linda Hudson, Commissioner Rufus Alexander, Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, Commissioner Thomas Perona, Commissioner Reginald Sessions

Passed

- 12. PUBLIC HEARINGS** Any Public Comment on these items, if not being offered in person, should be submitted by noon on the day of the meeting using the Sworn Public Comment Form which is available on the city's website at:
<http://www.cityoffortpierce.com/DocumentCenter/View/8741/Sworn-Public-Comment-for-Public-Hearings>

- a. Quasi-Judicial Hearing - Application for Conditional Use with New Construction submitted by property owner Hyer Management LLC, and representative William P. Stoddard to construct a single family home seaward of the Coastal Construction Control Line (CCCL) at 324 South Ocean Drive, Fort Pierce, FL. The property is zoned Hutchinson Island Medium Density Residential Zone (R-4A), Parcel ID: 2401-501-0026-000-3.

City Clerk Linda Cox introduced the application for conditional use with new construction, to construct a single-family home seaward of the Coastal Construction Control Line (CCCL) at 324 South Ocean Drive, Fort Pierce, FL.

Mayor Linda Hudson asked all present to listen carefully to what City Attorney, Peter Sweeney, would read regarding Quasi-Judicial Hearings as they apply to all subsequent Quasi-Judicial Hearings tonight.

Before commencing this Quasi-Judicial Hearing, Peter Sweeney, City Attorney, reminded the City Commission that they serve in both a legislative and quasi-judicial role. When acting as a legislative body, the commission engages in law-making activity by passing laws and establishing policies. When acting as a quasi-judicial body, the commission applies those laws and policies and is held to stricter procedural requirements.

Quasi-judicial proceedings are less formal than proceedings before a circuit court but are more formal than the normal commission meeting. Quasi-judicial proceedings must follow basic standards of notice and due process; and, decisions must be made based on competent substantial evidence.

Therefore, Commissioners have a duty to conduct the quasi-judicial proceedings more like judges than legislators. That is why the commission has established the uniform procedures for quasi-judicial hearings that will be followed this evening.

Mayor Linda Hudson called the proceeding to order.

City Clerk, Linda Cox, confirmed the City complied with advertisement and notice requirements.

Mayor Linda Hudson inquired with the Commission regarding ex-parte communications and asked City Clerk to call the roll:

Commissioner Alexander - yes.
Commissioner Johnson - yes.
Commissioner Perona - yes.
Commissioner Sessions - yes.
Mayor Hudson – yes.

Mayor Linda Hudson opened the public hearing.

City Clerk, Linda Cox, was asked to swear in those wanting to speak during this Quasi-Judicial hearing. Individuals in the audience intending to speak on this item were asked to stand, raise their right hand, and administered an oath to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. Those that were sworn in were asked to clearly state their name for the record and confirm they were sworn in at such time as they were asked to come forward to testify.

Staff Presentation

Brandon Creagan, Planner, provided an overview of the proposed application for conditional use with new construction submitted by property owner Hyer Management LLC, and representative William P. Stoddard to construct a single-family home seaward of the Coastal Construction Control Line (CCCL) at 324 South Ocean Drive, Fort Pierce, FL. The property is zoned Hutchinson Island Medium Density Residential Zone (R-4A), Parcel ID: 2401-501-0026-000-3. Mr. Creagan provided a site map, zoning map, height reduction exhibit, and design review plan.

This application is consistent with the City Code & the Comprehensive Plan; does not adversely affect the public health, safety, convenience, and general welfare of the public; and will not cause an adverse effect to the dune system. Planning Board voted 6-0 to recommend approval with four (4) conditions.

Staff recommends approval with the following four (4) conditions:

1. The relocation and mitigation of the Royal Palm that will need to be removed as part of the project shall be coordinated with the City of Fort Pierce Public Works Department before construction activity can commence.

2. Erosion and sedimentation control will be required to ensure no drainage issues to the drainage system during construction will occur. This shall be coordinated and approved by the City of Fort Pierce Engineering department before construction activities can commence.
3. Obtain the approval of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for construction activities seaward of the Coastal Construction Control Line before construction activities can commence.
4. The Landscape Plan that is provided as part of the Building Permit shall be signed and sealed by a Florida registered Landscape Architect.

Sixty-seven (67) notifications were mailed to adjacent property owners, five (5) were returned in favor, and two (2) in opposition.

Commission questions for Staff:

Commissioner Johnson inquired about features in the architecture regarding the changing elevations or floor plan. Mr. Creagan explained that there was a change in the ceiling height from the original plan which was submitted in 2017. Mr. Creagan will defer to the applicant for further explanation.

Applicant questions for Staff: None

Applicant presentation:

William Stoddard, Applicant Representative, sworn, explained that the design was modified by the new owner to eliminate the flat roof and the overall roof height was reduced. The FDEP has approved moving the fill material to the seaward end of the frontal dune. The plan, as approved by FDEP, includes a temporary retaining wall that will be constructed approximately five feet seaward of the residence to stabilize and minimize impact to the dune system.

Commission questions for Applicant:

Commissioner Perona commented that the plan has improved since the original application in 2017 and he appreciates the reduction in height. The architectural embellishment of the roofline is much better than before.

Public comment:

Bill Winch, sworn, opposed to the application.

Steve Tarr, submitted a sworn statement which was read into the record by City Clerk, supports the application.

Charles Hyek, submitted a sworn statement which was read into the record by City Clerk, supports the application.

Mayor Hudson, seeing no one else, closed the public hearing.

Comments by the City Commission:

Commissioner Johnson commented that the applicant and architect have done a good job addressing the issues that surrounding neighbors had.

Commissioner Perona commented that based upon the presentation, there is no competent substantial evidence to deny this application. This plan is an improvement over the prior application.

Commissioner Sessions commented that the applicant has done an exceptional job in addressing the concerns of the neighbors.

Commissioner Alexander commented that it is a beautiful structure being added to the City of Fort Pierce and welcomes the new owner.

Motion was made by Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Thomas Perona to approve the application for conditional use with new construction as submitted by property owner Hyer Management LLC, and representative William P. Stoddard to construct a single-family home seaward of the Coastal Construction Control Line (CCCL) at 324 South Ocean Drive, subject to four (4) conditions as recommended by staff:

AYE: Mayor Linda Hudson, Commissioner Rufus Alexander, Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, Commissioner Thomas Perona, Commissioner Reginald Sessions

Passed

- b. Quasi-Judicial Hearing - Review and Approval of an application for Conditional Use with no new construction submitted by property owner and applicant, Ann F. Harris, to establish a Dwelling Rental, offering lodging for less than six (6) months, with a minimum rental period of 31 days at 722 Granada Street, Unit A, Fort Pierce, FL. The property is zoned Hutchinson Island Medium Density Residential Zone (R-4A), Parcel ID: 2401-503-0094-000-6.

City Clerk Linda Cox introduced the application for conditional use with no new construction submitted by property owner and applicant, Ann F. Harris, to establish a dwelling rental, offering lodging for less than six (6) months, with a minimum rental period of 31 days at 722 Granada Street, Unit A, Fort Pierce, FL.

Mayor Hudson called the public hearing to order and reminded the Commission and Public that this proceeding is a Quasi-Judicial Hearing and that City Attorney Peter Sweeney has read the legal requirements into the record.

City Clerk, Linda Cox, confirmed the City complied with advertisement and notice requirements.

Mayor Linda Hudson inquired with the Commission regarding ex-parte communications and asked City Clerk to call the roll:

Commissioner Alexander - none.
Commissioner Johnson - none.
Commissioner Perona - none.
Commissioner Sessions - none.
Mayor Hudson – none.

Mayor Linda Hudson opened the public hearing.

City Clerk, Linda Cox, was asked to swear in those wanting to speak during this Quasi-Judicial hearing. Individuals in the audience intending to speak on this item were asked to stand, raise their right hand, and administered an oath, to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. Those that were sworn in were asked to clearly state their name for the record and confirm they were sworn in at such time as they were asked to come forward to testify.

Staff Presentation

Vennis Gilmore, Planner, provided an overview of the review and approval of an application for conditional use with no new construction submitted by property owner and applicant, Ann F. Harris, to establish a Dwelling Rental, offering lodging for less than six (6) months, with a minimum rental period of 31 days at 722 Granada Street, Unit A, Fort Pierce, FL. The property is zoned Hutchinson Island Medium Density Residential Zone (R-4A), Parcel ID: 2401-503-0094-000-6. Mr. Gilmore provided aerial and zoning maps of the subject premises. One hundred eighty-two (182) notifications were sent to adjacent property owners with seven (7) returns in favor and thirteen returns in opposition of the application.

Staff recommends approval with eight (8) conditions:

1. The property manager for the dwelling rental shall be available at all times to resolve complaints or violations of city code. Said manager shall reside in St. Lucie County and shall be registered with the City of Fort Pierce.
2. Guide booklets (available from Code Enforcement) shall be provided to renters regarding local rules and public service resources to minimize conflicts.
3. The applicant shall file for and obtain St. Lucie County and City of Fort Pierce Business Tax Licenses within thirty (30) days of Conditional Use approval.
4. There shall be a limitation of no more than no two (2) vehicles at the site.
5. The City of Fort Pierce Business Tax License number shall be included in all advertising.
6. The maximum occupancy of the home shall ensure compliance with City Code Section 8.5-43. - Required space in dwelling units, based upon the size of each unit.
7. Pave the required parking spaces per City Code Section 22-60(c)(6) Surface Material:
 - a. Required parking spaces, access drives, and loading areas must be paved and maintained with concrete, asphalt, or similar material of enough thickness and consistency to support anticipated traffic volumes and weights.
 - b. Alternative paving materials or parking surfaces (including pervious surfaces) may be approved by the city engineer if such materials or surfaces are demonstrated to exhibit equivalent wear resistance and load-bearing characteristics as concrete or asphalt.
8. Install a sidewalk along Granada Street or submit payment in-lieu to the City of Fort Pierce within ninety (90) days of conditional use approval. Pursuant to City Code Section 11-62(b)(4) Sidewalks. In order to provide continual access for pedestrians, sidewalks and sidewalk linkages shall be required to be provided by the property owner or permit applicant, when plans are submitted for conditional use application or pay a payment to the city sidewalk fund pursuant to City Code Section 22-62(g).

Commission questions for Staff: None

Applicant questions for Staff: None

Applicant presentation: None

Commission questions for Applicant: None

Public comment: None

Mayor Hudson, seeing no one else, closed the public hearing.

Comments by the City Commission:

Commissioner Johnson commented that all the conditions are consistent with applications similar to this one.

Commissioner Perona commented that the owners of this property live out of state and have hired a local property manager. Commissioner Perona inquired about the process for the short term rental conditional use. Jennifer Hofmeister, Planning Director outlined the application process which takes approximately four (4) months. The vacation and dwelling rentals fall under the City Code's for conditional use and procedures are followed per code requirement.

Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas Perona, seconded by Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson to approve the application for conditional use with no new construction submitted by property owner and applicant, Ann F. Harris, to establish a dwelling rental, offering lodging for less than six (6) months, with a minimum rental period of 31 days at 722 Granada Street, Unit A, Fort Pierce, FL subject to the eight (8) conditions recommended by staff.

AYE: Mayor Linda Hudson, Commissioner Rufus Alexander, Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson,
Commissioner Thomas Perona, Commissioner Reginald Sessions

Passed

- c. Quasi-Judicial Hearing - Review and Approval of an application for Conditional Use with new construction submitted by property owner and applicant, Palmieri Design Planning LLC, to construct and establish a 59,362 square foot Assisted Living Facility with 56-units at 1600 N Lawnwood Circle, Fort Pierce, FL. The property is zoned Medium Density Residential Zone (R-4), Parcel ID: 2416-504-0211-000-2.

City Clerk Linda Cox introduced the application for conditional use with new construction submitted by property owner and applicant, Palmieri Design Planning LLC, to construct and establish a 59,362 square foot Assisted Living Facility with 56-units at 1600 N. Lawnwood Circle, Fort Pierce, FL

Mayor Hudson called the public hearing to order and reminded the Commission and Public that this proceeding is a Quasi-Judicial Hearing and that City Attorney Peter Sweeney has read the legal requirements into the record.

City Clerk, Linda Cox, confirmed the City complied with advertisement and notice requirements.

Mayor Linda Hudson inquired with the Commission regarding ex-parte communications and asked City Clerk to call the roll:

Commissioner Alexander - none.
Commissioner Johnson - none.
Commissioner Perona - none.
Commissioner Sessions - none.
Mayor Hudson – none.

Mayor Linda Hudson opened the public hearing.

City Clerk, Linda Cox, was asked to swear in those wanting to speak during this Quasi-Judicial hearing. Individuals in the audience intending to speak on this item were asked to stand, raise their right hand, and administered an oath, to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. Those that were sworn in were asked to clearly state their name for the record and confirm they were sworn in at such time as they were asked to come forward to testify.

Staff Presentation

Vennis Gilmore, Planner provided an overview of the proposed application for conditional use with new construction submitted by property owner and applicant, Palmieri Design Planning LLC, to construct and establish a two (2)-story 59,362 square foot Assisted Living Facility with 56-units located at 1600 N. Lawnwood Circle, Fort Pierce, FL. The property is zoned Medium Density Residential Zone (R-4), Parcel ID: 2416-504-0211-000-2. Mr. Gilmore provided an aerial map, zoning map, proposed site plan, design review plan. The applicant is requesting to construct a two (2)-story 59,362 square foot assisted living facility with a memory care program. The approximately 2.21 acres property is located just north of North Lawnwood Circle and south of Jersey Avenue and South 17th Circle. The subject site is surrounded by multi-family housing to the north and south, an assisted living facility to the east, and a medical rehabilitation center to the west. The subject site is located within the Lawnwood Regional Medical Center medical-centric neighborhood enclave. The property has a Future Land Use of Medium Density Residential (RM) and is zoned Medium Density Residential Zone (R-4). The subject assisted living facility is specifically dedicated to senior military veterans, first responders, patriots, and their spouses who need assistance with daily activities. The project's floor plan will consist of 56 living units with 96 beds in total. Staffing will be provided 24 hours daily.

Thirty-seven (37) notifications were sent to adjacent property owners with six (6) returned in favor and three (3) returned opposed.

Staff recommends approval with the following five (5) conditions:

1. Provide a separate gated entrance to the refuse collection area for employee access.
2. Per City Code Section 22-62. – Sidewalks (d)(1) Sidewalks and sidewalk linkages shall be installed in public or private right-of-way the full length of any and all streets abutting a parcel of property and parallel to the street.
3. Provide an additional pedestrian sidewalk linkage near the western portion of the property or centrally locate the provided sidewalk linkage.
4. Submit a Landscape Bond prior to Certificate of Occupancy.
5. Per City Code Section 22-60. – Off-Street Parking and Loading. (j) Lighting. Adhere to the lighting plan to ensure the minimum requirement of two (2) foot candles.

Commission questions for Staff:

Commissioner Johnson inquired if coordination with community transit services has been done and if there are any outdoor amenities being provided. Mr. Gilmore will defer these items to the applicant for a response. Jennifer Hofmeister, Director of Planning advised the City Commission that the application was distributed to the TRC and the Transit Planner for the County.

Applicant questions for Staff: None

Applicant presentation: None.

Commission questions for Applicant: Wesley Mills of Mills, Short & Associates, Applicant Representative, sworn, was available to answer any questions. The proposed facility will offer a van shuttle service for its residents. Commissioner Johnson wanted to make the applicant aware that St. Lucie County as a partner of the City of Fort Pierce offers a Veteran's Program through its Community Services which includes transportation. Commissioner Johnson inquired about the patio area on the plan. Mr. Mills explained the patio area at the northeast rear of the property has a fence around it and has a covered patio which will be a garden area. Mr. Mills added that this will be an assisted living facility with memory care.

Public comment:

David Earle, sworn, discussed stormwater and drainage concerns related to the Lawnwood Community Drainage System.

Mayor Hudson, seeing no one else, closed the public hearing.

Closing Comments by Applicant: Mr. Mills gave a brief history of the development. In 2006 the site received permits from South Florida Water Management and from the City of Fort Pierce and that's when development started. The infrastructure was in the ground and drainage pipes were tied into the road system. Prior to that, in 1982, 96 acres were part of the Lawnwood development which also included this site. The stormwater system for this site was included in the original development permit. Sewer and water are already in the ground. The applicant will work with Mayfair and neighbors to ensure amicable agreements are in place regarding stormwater.

Comments by the City Commission:

Commissioner Johnson commented that the plan looks good and perhaps further input from the City Engineering Department on conditions may be warranted, but that will happen during the permit process.

Motion was made by Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Reginald Sessions to approve the application for conditional use with new construction submitted by property owner and applicant, Palmieri Design Planning LLC, to construct and establish a 59,362 square foot Assisted Living Facility with 56-units at 1600 N Lawnwood Circle, Fort Pierce, FL subject to the five (5) staff conditions and adding one (1) additional condition:

1. Provide a separate gated entrance to the refuse collection area for employee access.
2. Per City Code Section 22-62. – Sidewalks (d)(1) Sidewalks and sidewalk linkages shall be installed in public or private right-of-way the full length of any and all streets abutting a parcel of property and parallel to the street.
3. Provide an additional pedestrian sidewalk linkage near the western portion of the property or centrally locate the provided sidewalk linkage.
4. Submit a Landscape Bond prior to Certificate of Occupancy.
5. Per City Code Section 22-60. – Off-Street Parking and Loading. (j) Lighting. Adhere to the lighting plan to ensure the minimum requirement of two (2) foot candles.
6. The applicant will work with the existing property owners' association on a stormwater maintenance agreement if applicable based on the previous stormwater design.

AYE: Mayor Linda Hudson, Commissioner Rufus Alexander, Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, Commissioner Thomas Perona, Commissioner Reginald Sessions

Passed

- d. Quasi-Judicial Hearing - Culverhouse Replat (Thumbpoint Subdivision Replat) Block 1, Portion of Lot 28 and all of Lots 29 and 30 generally located at or near 1635 Thumb Point Drive

City Clerk Linda Cox introduced the Culverhouse Replat (Thumbpoint Subdivision Replat) Block 1, Portion of Lot 28, and all of Lots 29 and 30 generally located at or near 1635 Thumb Point Drive.

Mayor Hudson called the public hearing to order and reminded the Commission and Public that this proceeding is a Quasi-Judicial Hearing and that City Attorney Peter Sweeney has read the legal requirements into the record.

City Clerk, Linda Cox, confirmed the City complied with advertisement and notice requirements.

Mayor Linda Hudson inquired with the Commission regarding ex-parte communications and asked City Clerk to call the roll:

Commissioner Alexander - none.
Commissioner Johnson - none.
Commissioner Perona - none.
Commissioner Sessions - yes.
Mayor Hudson – none.

Mayor Linda Hudson opened the public hearing.

City Clerk, Linda Cox, was asked to swear in those wanting to speak during this Quasi-Judicial hearing. Individuals in the audience intending to speak on this item were asked to stand, raise their right hand, and

administered an oath, to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. Those that were sworn in were asked to clearly state their name for the record and confirm they were sworn in at such time as they were asked to come forward to testify.

Staff Presentation

Rebeca Guerra, Assistant Planning Director provided an overview of the proposed Culverhouse Replat (Thumbpoint Subdivision Replat) located at or near 1635 Thumb Point Drive. Ms. Guerra provided a future land use map, zoning map, overall plat, proposed lot 1, proposed lot 2, and proposed lot 3 maps. The subject properties have a Future Land Use designation of Low-Density Residential (RL), which is intended for parcels that are best suited for lower density residential uses. The subject properties have a compatible zoning classification of Single-Family Low-Density Residential Zone (R-1). The surrounding properties are all designated with a Future Land Use of RL and are zoned Single-Family Low-Density Residential Zone (R-1), with the exception of the parcels to the north which are zoned Single-Family Intermediate Density (R-2). The surrounding properties are occupied by single-family homes.

The applicant is proposing to reconfigure two platted lots (Lots 29 and 30) and half of another platted lot (Lot 28) into three (3) distinct lots. Each lot will meet the minimum lot width, depth, and area requirements specified by City Code for the RL Zoning District. Additionally, staff has reviewed the application in accordance with Chapter 18 - Subdivisions of the City Code. The Planning Board has recommended approval subject to one (1) condition:

Staff recommends approval subject to the one condition.

1. The applicant will supply two (2) Mylars for appropriate signatures and then the plat is recorded with St. Lucie County Clerk of Court in accordance with Florida State Statute 177.111.

Commission questions for Staff: None.

Applicant questions for Staff: None

Applicant presentation:

William Stoddard, Applicant Representative, sworn, stated the applicant has worked with staff and it meets all the minimum standards in the land development code.

Attorney Frank Fee, Applicant Representative, sworn, stated that all issues previous regarding this property have been resolved. Attorney Fee is available to answer any questions.

Commission questions for Applicant:

Commissioner Perona inquired of Attorney Fee if the proposed lot sizes are sufficient to develop for this area. Attorney Fee stated that all lots exceed the minimum 12,000 square foot requirement.

Public comment: None.

Mayor Hudson, seeing no one, closed the public hearing.

Comments by the City Commission: None.

Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas Perona, seconded by Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson to approve the Culverhouse Replat (Thumbpoint Subdivision Replat) Block 1, Portion of Lot 28 and all of Lots 29 and 30 generally located at or near 1635 Thumb Point Drive subject to one (1) condition as recommended by staff.

AYE: Mayor Linda Hudson, Commissioner Rufus Alexander, Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, Commissioner Thomas Perona, Commissioner Reginald Sessions

Passed

- e. Quasi-Judicial Hearing - Replat of Granada Street Cottages a Portion of Block 7 and 8, Revised Plat of Palm Haven Subdivision Plat Book 8, Page 44 of the Public Records of St. Lucie County, Florida Lying in Section 1, Township 35 South, Range 40 generally located at or near the southeast corner of Porpoise Avenue and Granada Street

City Clerk Linda Cox introduced the Replat of Granada Street Cottages, a Portion of Block 7 and 8, Revised Plat of Palm Haven Subdivision Plat Book 8, Page 44 of the Public Records of St. Lucie County, Florida Lying in Section 1, Township 35 South, Range 40 generally located at or near the southeast corner of Porpoise Avenue and Granada Street

Mayor Hudson called the public hearing to order and reminded the Commission and Public that this proceeding is a Quasi-Judicial Hearing and that City Attorney Peter Sweeney has read the legal requirements into the record.

City Clerk, Linda Cox, confirmed the City complied with advertisement and notice requirements.

Mayor Linda Hudson inquired with the Commission regarding ex-parte communications and asked City Clerk to call the roll:

Commissioner Alexander - none.
Commissioner Johnson - none.
Commissioner Perona - none.

Commissioner Sessions - none.
Mayor Hudson – none.

Mayor Linda Hudson opened the public hearing.

City Clerk, Linda Cox, was asked to swear in those wanting to speak during this Quasi-Judicial hearing. Individuals in the audience intending to speak on this item were asked to stand, raise their right hand, and administered an oath, to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. Those that were sworn in were asked to clearly state their name for the record and confirm they were sworn in at such time as they were asked to come forward to testify.

Staff Presentation

Rebeca Guerra, Assistant Planning Director provided an overview of the proposed replat of Granada Street Cottages, a portion of block 7 and 8, revised plat of Palm Haven Subdivision Plat Book 8, page 44 of the public records of St. Lucie County, Florida lying in section 1, township 35 south, range 40 which is generally located at or near the southeast corner of Porpoise Avenue and Granada Street. Ms. Guerra provided future land use, zoning, and overall plat maps.

The subject properties have a Future Land Use of Hutchinson Island Residential (HIR) which was established due to Hutchinson Island being a sensitive barrier island that presents development considerations which are either unique to the area or are of added concern, such as environmental fragility, beach erosion, and hurricane evacuation. The subdivision comprises a total of one parcel with 1.9 acres and will be subdivided into a total of 10 separate lots. Each lot will meet the minimum lot width, depth, and area requirements specified by the City Code. Staff has reviewed the application in accordance with Chapter 18 - Subdivisions of the City Code. The applicant, Granada Street Properties, LLC (Henry Loudon) received an abandonment approval by the City Commission on August 5, 2019, for a portion of the subject properties.

The proposed project is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Board recommended approval subject to one (1) condition.

Staff recommends approval subject to one (1) condition:

1. The applicant will supply two (2) Mylars for appropriate signatures and then the plat is recorded with St. Lucie County Clerk of Courts in accordance with Florida State Statute 177.111.

Commission questions for Staff:

Commissioner Perona inquired if the road is paved. Ms. Guerra stated that it is not a paved road; however, it is in the engineering plan for improvement. Staff is reviewing the timing for improvement for this project. Code requires any new development fronting on a right-of-way must be improved with paving and sidewalks.

Applicant questions for Staff: None

Applicant presentation: None.

Commission questions for Applicant: None.

Public comment: None.

Mayor Hudson, seeing no one, closed the public hearing.

Comments by the City Commission: None.

Motion was made by Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Thomas Perona to approve for the Replat of Granada Street Cottages, a Portion of Block 7 and 8, Revised Plat of Palm Haven Subdivision Plat Book 8, Page 44 of the Public Records of St. Lucie County, Florida Lying in Section 1, Township 35 South, Range 40 generally located at or near the southeast corner of Porpoise Avenue and Granada Street subject to one (1) condition as recommended by staff.

AYE: Mayor Linda Hudson, Commissioner Rufus Alexander, Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson,
Commissioner Thomas Perona, Commissioner Reginald Sessions

Passed

- f. Legislative Hearing - Ordinance No. 20-004 - An ordinance amending the Future Land Use of four parcels at or near 2152 S Jenkins Road from Medium Density Residential (RM) to High Density Residential (RH).
SECOND READING

City Clerk Linda Cox introduced the ordinance, read by title only, into the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 20-004

AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA;
AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO CHANGE THE DESIGNATION OF FOUR (4) PARCELS GENERALLY LOCATED AT OR NEAR 2152 SOUTH JENKINS ROAD FROM CITY OF FORT PIERCE MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (RM) TO CITY OF FORT PIERCE HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (RH); PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ORDINANCES OR PARTS THEREOF IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR

AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (SECOND READING)

Mayor Hudson opened the Public Hearing.

Applicant Comment:

Dennis Murphy of Culpepper & Terpening as Applicant Representative, sworn, was present and available to answer questions.

Mayor Hudson closed the Public Hearing.

Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas Perona, seconded by Commissioner Reginald Sessions to approve Ordinance 20-004.

AYE: Mayor Linda Hudson, Commissioner Rufus Alexander, Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, Commissioner Thomas Perona, Commissioner Reginald Sessions

Passed

- g. Legislative Hearing - Ordinance No. 20-005 - An ordinance rezoning four (4) properties generally located at or near 2152 S Jenkins Road from Medium Density Residential (R-4) to High Density Residential (R-5).
SECOND READING

City Clerk Linda Cox introduced the ordinance, read by title only, into the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 20-005

AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA; REZONING FOUR (4) PARCELS GENERALLY LOCATED AT OR NEAR 2152 SOUTH JENKINS ROAD FROM CITY OF FORT PIERCE MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL, R-4 TO CITY OF FORT PIERCE HIGH-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL, R-5; PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ORDINANCES OR PARTS THEREOF IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (SECOND READING)

Mayor Hudson opened the Public Hearing.

Applicant Comment:

Dennis Murphy of Culpepper & Terpening as Applicant Representative, sworn, was present and available to answer questions.

Mayor Hudson closed the Public Hearing.

Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas Perona, seconded by Commissioner Rufus Alexander to approve Ordinance 20-005.

AYE: Mayor Linda Hudson, Commissioner Rufus Alexander, Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, Commissioner Thomas Perona, Commissioner Reginald Sessions

Passed

- h. Legislative Hearing - Ordinance 20-013 reducing Business Tax Receipt fees by 5% for the next two years.
SECOND READING

City Clerk Linda Cox introduced the ordinance, read by title only, into the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 20-013

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 9, ARTICLE II, BUSINESS TAX, SECTION 9-30, FEES, TO PROVIDE FOR A 5% DECREASE IN BUSINESS TAX FEES FOR BUSINESSES, PROFESSIONS, OR OCCUPATIONS; PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; REPEALING ORDINANCES OR PARTS THEREOF IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (SECOND READING)

Mayor Hudson opened the Public Hearing. Seeing no one, Mayor Hudson closed the Public Hearing.

Motion was made by Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Rufus Alexander to approve Ordinance 20-013.

AYE: Mayor Linda Hudson, Commissioner Rufus Alexander, Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, Commissioner Thomas Perona, Commissioner Reginald Sessions

Passed

- i. Legislative Hearing - Ordinance 20-014 adopting new Code of Ordinances. FIRST READING

City Clerk Linda Cox introduced the ordinance, read by title only, into the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 20-014

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AND ENACTING A NEW CODE FOR THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES NOT INCLUDED THEREIN; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF; PROVIDING FOR THE MANNER OF AMENDING SUCH CODE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING WHEN SUCH CODE AND THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE. (FIRST READING)

City Attorney, Peter Sweeney, provided a brief overview of the proposed ordinance. Attorney Sweeney demonstrated that the new code has a little over 1,100 pages. The Code has been organized and repaginated into three sections: City Charter, ordinances related to the operation of city government, and ordinances related to land development. In conjunction with Senior Code Attorney, Roger Merriam at Municode, ordinances that have been superseded by Florida or Federal law have been removed. Historically inaccurate ordinances have been removed. Fees have been removed so they can be addressed by resolution. Penalties have been standardized to create uniformity for infractions of the code of ordinances. Definitions have been reviewed, cross-referenced, and edited to match Florida statutes. Several sections of the City Charter have been edited due to the application of Florida statute section 166.021. This statute identifies provisions of municipal charters that are limitations on home rule power and decrees that they should be stricken from the municipal charter. Several sections of the City Charter have been corrected because they included language that was not properly approved by referendum.

Mayor Hudson opened the Public Hearing. Seeing no one, Mayor Hudson closed the Public Hearing.

Motion was made by Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Thomas Perona to approve Ordinance 20-014.

AYE: Mayor Linda Hudson, Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, Commissioner Thomas Perona,
Commissioner Reginald Sessions

NAY: Commissioner Rufus Alexander

Passed

13. CITY COMMISSION

- a. Discussion at the request of Commissioner Alexander of the public requirement for face masks in Fort Pierce

Face Coverings Commissioner Alexander is opposed to the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners' decision to not mandate the requirement to wear a face-covering or face mask in public for all citizens.

Commissioner Sessions agrees that this pandemic now at critical exposure in our community. Every precaution needs to be done to ensure social distancing and the wearing of facial masks for all while in public. Commissioner Sessions distributed a copy of Florida Statute 252 to the City Commission which allows the City of Fort Pierce as a municipality to implement and put in place a resolution for the requirement to wear a face mask in public. Commissioner Sessions expressed the urgency for something to be done to reduce the number of exposures and ultimate deaths.

Mayor Hudson commented that the ordinance passed by the County was a compromise of conflicting opinions regarding the mandate to wear face masks. The ordinance which goes into effect July 07, 2020, requires business and employees to wear face masks and recommends that customers do so as well. Penalties will be civil and not criminal.

Commissioner Johnson inquired as to who will be issuing the civil citations for violation of the ordinance. If first responders have to respond to a call for a violation, not only are they being subjected to potential exposure, but they are being pulled away from true emergencies. Commissioner Johnson reviewed recent COVID-10 numbers for our community. Many people who initially resisted wearing a mask, are now wearing them voluntarily.

Commissioner Perona is concerned with what impact will be a result of a mandate or ordinance and what resources it will take to enforce this requirement. Commissioner Perona would like to continue to follow the County's lead on this but does realize that the City of Fort Pierce may have to make its own resolution or ordinance in the future.

Commissioner Sessions agrees that it is personal responsibility, but if a mandate were in place, citizens would be less likely to forget to have a mask. At least two other municipalities already have this mandate in place.

- b. Update on the demolition of 2607 Avenue D - Continued from February 18, 2020 as Resolution No. 20-R12

Peggy Arriaz, Code Compliance Manager provided a brief update on the status of 2607 Avenue D. Ms. Arriaz has had several discussions with the property owner. The owner has been working toward her goal of getting this project going but was delayed due to COVID-19. Ms. Arriaz has spoken with her contractor and as of today, the engineered drawings are completed. Things are progressing. The owner is in constant communication with Code Enforcement.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rufus Alexander, seconded by Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson to extend the time allowed on this project for a period of ninety (90) days.

AYE: Mayor Linda Hudson, Commissioner Rufus Alexander, Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, Commissioner Thomas Perona, Commissioner Reginald Sessions

Passed

- c. Resolution 20-R28 determining that the structure located at 604 N 25th Street is unsafe and should be condemned and demolished. A hearing to determine this matter is scheduled before the City Commission on August 3, 2020.

City Clerk Linda Cox introduced the Resolution, read by title only, into the record.

RESOLUTION NO. 20-R28

A RESOLUTION DETERMINING THAT A CERTAIN BUILDING OR STRUCTURE LOCATED AT 604 N 25TH ST IN FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, 34950 IS UNSAFE AND A NUISANCE THAT CONSTITUTES A MENACE TO THE BUSINESS, HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE COMMUNITY; AND THAT ALL PARTIES OF INTEREST MUST SHOW CAUSE WHY THE STRUCTURE SHOULD NOT BE CONDEMNED AND DEMOLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, AND NOTIFYING ALL PARTIES OF POTENTIAL ACTION BY THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE FOR FAILURE TO ACT; AND THAT A PUBLIC HEARING BE HELD AT THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED CITY COMMISSION MEETING ON AUGUST 3, 2020 AT 6:30 PM, IN THE CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS LOCATED AT 100 NORTH US HIGHWAY 1, FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA; AND PROVIDING FOR NOTICE TO ALL PARTIES.

Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas Perona, seconded by Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson to approve Resolution 20-R28.

AYE: Mayor Linda Hudson, Commissioner Rufus Alexander, Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, Commissioner Thomas Perona, Commissioner Reginald Sessions

Passed

- d. Resolution 20-R30 reclassifying George Johansen and Anthony Westbury from alternate members to regular members of the Historic Preservation Board

City Clerk Linda Cox introduced the Resolution, read by title only, into the record.

RESOLUTION NO. 20-R30

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, CERTIFYING THE APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATE MEMBERS AS REGULAR MEMBERS TO THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas Perona, seconded by Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson to approve Resolution 20-R30 reclassifying George Johansen and Anthony Westbury from alternate members to regular members of the Historic Preservation Board.

AYE: Mayor Linda Hudson, Commissioner Rufus Alexander, Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, Commissioner Thomas Perona, Commissioner Reginald Sessions

Passed

Commissioner Alexander has requested an advertisement for alternates for the Historic Preservation Board.

- e. Resolution 20-R31 Establishing BTR fees and other fees collected by City Clerk by resolution.

City Clerk Linda Cox introduced the Resolution, read by title only, into the record.

RESOLUTION NO. 20-R31

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA; ESTABLISHING BY RESOLUTION THE BUSINESS TAX FEES FOR BUSINESSES, PROFESSIONS, OR OCCUPATIONS; ESTABLISHING OTHER FEES COLLECTED BY THE CITY CLERK; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion was made by Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Reginald Sessions to approve Resolution 20-R31 establishing Business Tax Receipt fees and other fees collected by City Clerk.

AYE: Mayor Linda Hudson, Commissioner Rufus Alexander, Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, Commissioner Thomas Perona, Commissioner Reginald Sessions

Passed

- f. Resolution 20-R32 Establishing Polling Places for the Primary Election to be held on August 18, 2020.

City Clerk Linda Cox introduced the Resolution, read by title only, into the record.

RESOLUTION NO. 20-R32

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION OF THE DESIGNATED PRECINCT POLLING PLACES IN THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD ON AUGUST 18, 2020, PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion was made by Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Rufus Alexander to approve Resolution 20-R32 establishing polling locations for the Primary Election to be held on August 18, 2020.

AYE: Mayor Linda Hudson, Commissioner Rufus Alexander, Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, Commissioner Thomas Perona, Commissioner Reginald Sessions

Passed

- g. Submittal of applications to serve on the Civil Service Appeals Board.

Applications to serve on the Civil Service Appeals Board have been received from:

Amandro, Frank
Gaines, J
Gillette, Ellen
Mancini, Ellen
Meely, Dee
Williams, Harry

One regular member and one alternate member's term will expire on July 31, 2020. This item will come back to the City Commission for a vote at the next regular meeting.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Any person who wishes to comment on any subject may be heard at this time. Please limit your comments to three (3) minutes or less, as directed by the Mayor, as this section of the Agenda is limited to thirty minutes. The City Commission will not be able to take any official actions under Comments from the Public. Speakers will address the Mayor, Commissioners, and the Public with respect. Inappropriate language will not be tolerated.

Paul Schall
Xavier Brown
Frederic Jackson
Ovenor Eliassaint
Henry Duhart
Sean McDemott
Harold Albury, III
Charles Gannon
Curtis Johnson, Jr.
Abigail Pemberton
George Collins

15. COMMENTS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

Nick Mimms, City Manager, would like to commend the new leadership group in Fort Pierce who came out this evening to express their concerns and opinions during the public comment. Mr. Mimms has submitted to the City Commission three reports: Purchasing Report, City Manager's Report, and COVID-19 Report.

At the request of Commissioner Alexander, Mr. Mimms provided a brief overview of the reports.

COVID-19 Report

The COVID-19 Grant Relief program continues. The mortgage and lease assistance program has had 34 applications approved in the total amount of \$60,682.80. The small business relief program has had 34 applications approved in the total amount of \$102,000.00. COVID-19 testing has been completed. The food distribution program with our community partners has been very successful. Mr. Mimms feels this is the most rewarding and fulfilling service offered to our residents. Everybody needs a little help right now regardless of color or creed. It has been challenging finding the staples to provide but together with our partners, we were able to service over 600 families at the last distribution held at Percy Peek Gym.

Commissioner Alexander asked if future testing will be done. Mr. Mimms explained that the City of Fort Pierce has exhausted the Cares Act Funding which paid for the testing. The City will be working with the Department of Health and St. Lucie County to bring pop-up testing or another testing location to northern St. Lucie County to provide free testing services. They have concentrated their efforts in the southern part of the county but will also now bring that testing to the northern part of the County. Commissioner Alexander would like the City of Fort Pierce to provide more testing. Commissioner Sessions feels it is an injustice that services are not made available in our area as it is in the southern areas of the county.

Mr. Mimms reported that the City of Fort Pierce and its partners have distributed over 100,000 meals to our community for which he is very proud.

City Facility Access

Public access to city facilities is constantly changing. For City Hall, we have concentrated one point of entry which is controlled by temperature readings. We are following CDC guidance with a 100.4 degree reading as being classified as a fever. We are doing this to protect our employees and visitors. City Hall department access remains open but by appointment only.

Communications

The See-Click-Fix program has had 89 requests. The average response time is approximately two days.

Employee Status

Thirteen (13) employees have reported and exhibited symptoms of the COVID-19. We have five (5) confirmed positive test results. Co-workers through contact tracing were immediately notified of the potential exposure. We have intensified sanitization throughout facilities.

Budget

The budget process is complete. A balanced budget will be presented to the City Commission that should meet and exceed expectations. The number one directive to make sure the police department had adequate funding has been achieved. The balanced budget to be presented addresses our strategic goals and initiatives without having any layoffs or furloughs.

City Attorney, Peter Sweeney has no comments.

a. Reports

16. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Alexander

A reminder to our community that St. Lucie County has stated that school will resume in August. Commissioner Alexander appreciates comments from the public this evening and supports the decriminalization of marijuana and will encourage the City Manager to place this item on the agenda at a future meeting.

Commissioner Perona

A reminder about the importance of the Census. Churches, health organizations, and public assistance has been a great communicator of the importance to complete the Census. We need to continue to get the word out there so funding can be made available to our community. Commissioner Perona would like to express thanks to the Code Enforcement and Police Department for keeping control over the Fourth of July holiday weekend. Commissioner Perona would like to learn more about the decriminalization of marijuana. The representatives who came forward this evening were energized, organized, articulate, and well-prepared with their presentations. Commissioner Perona would like the Commission to learn more about the topic. Regarding COVID-19 testing, result times are taking from six to 10 days which causes great stress and anguish waiting for the results.

Commissioner Sessions

Please be cautious about how you move around in your day-to-day activities. Practice social distancing and wear a face mask. Commissioner Sessions would like the group who presented this evening to be encouraged and advised that the platform to work on is with state legislation. Commissioner Sessions remains open to discussion on this issue. He does not agree with having a police record for small amounts of marijuana. He truly appreciates their presentation to city officials. Regarding the Census, the regional director is going to continue to work on hiring Hispanic and Black representatives to engage the people in the community. Again, please wear masks and take this pandemic seriously.

Commissioner Johnson

Applauds each of the members of the group that presented this evening who were speaking from the heart. Commissioner Johnson is all about getting the facts and parameters to make an informed decision. Commissioner Johnson would like an update on annexations. American Red Cross sent a mailer regarding the 2020 hurricane season. Commissioner Johnson would like an update on any grant opportunities for sheltering or the emergency operation center, as well as an update on the parklet program. July 01, 2020, the animal shelter became operational.

Mayor Hudson

Thanked the group that presented this evening. Mayor Hudson is very interested in the points raised and will reach out to the Roundtable Committee for a Drug-Free St. Lucie. Mayor Hudson is interested in learning more from the Police Department regarding the issues raised this evening. Don't forget about the Census! FPUA has mailed an insert with their statements that explains the Census and hurricane preparations.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Immediately following adjournment, please move toward the doors and exit the chambers. This allows for the safe and courteous exit of all persons, and those on the dais. Conversations after the meeting should be held outside of chambers, in the foyer or elsewhere, but not in the commission chambers where lights will be out as soon as the chambers are empty.

Mayor Linda Hudson adjourned the meeting at **11:02 PM.**

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR COMMISSIONER